

WEAK NATIONS LAUGHED AT.

To Have no Standing Army is akin to Having no Policemen.

MAJOR GENERAL O. O. HOWARD'S LETTER.

He Reviews the Standing Army, Its Organization, Duties and Effectiveness - Benefits of Practical Military Instruction.

BY MAJOR GENERAL O. O. HOWARD.

The Brown university, Rhode Island, as put forth in his moral science became, before the rebellion the same now in our European countries. The soldiers of our small army are, as a class, self-respecting men. They are honorable, trustworthy and upright in conduct.

Charles Sumner when a young man composed his great oration on "The Grandeur of Nations." It was a superb array of arguments adverse to armies and the use of arms. And I hesitate not to say that at that time there was a sentiment nearly universal against war of any kind, offensive or defensive, against any sort of standing army and other forcible means of public defense.

The prophetic that there would come a time when the lion and the lamb would lie down together was taken as if a command and the prediction that nations would learn war no more, a state, like the millennium, to be wished and prayed for, was imposed upon man and society as a sacred duty to be at once performed.

The ethical teaching arising from the Quaker interpretation of our Lord's practical precepts, necessarily created a deep-seated prejudice against our regular army and our standing army. There was doubtless in earlier times, too, a strong feeling against the British regulars during both our wars with Great Britain. The large proportion of mercenaries that made up the invading forces, by their cruel and covetous conduct, added to this antipathy.

The immigrants from other nations also brought equally strong prejudices against the forces of our country. In the case of the British, they were not only a standing army, but they were a standing army of mercenaries. In the case of the French, they were a standing army of mercenaries. In the case of the Germans, they were a standing army of mercenaries.

The author of the "Grandeur of Nations" added grandeur to his oration by predicting the war power, and urging the people to sustain the army which was mainly filled with those who a few months before were themselves regarded as the people.

How the world rejoiced when General Gordon of England stepped forth, like Joshua of old, to lead the people to a new and better life. The delays of a sufficient force to reach Khartoum, beat back the Mahdi, and rescue the noble Gordon with his helpless dependents, have not, however, prevented the plate of civilization at least a quarter of a century. O, for the proper preparation! The need now plain. A well appointed and well commanded army, our God would bless and bless and help in the time of Gordon's senseless exposure and barbarous martyrdom.

Public sentiment, spreading from east to west, which, of course, ought to be fostered in the interest of peace, when it takes such radical freaks against the army and the public defense as to bring discredit on the soldier's uniform, carries with it a very decided opposition to all military tendencies in the education of youth. On the other hand, it is believed that, after excepting a few extremists, the majority of our fellow citizens recognize the right and the imperative necessity of a sufficient force to reach Khartoum, beat back the Mahdi, and rescue the noble Gordon with his helpless dependents, have not, however, prevented the plate of civilization at least a quarter of a century. O, for the proper preparation! The need now plain. A well appointed and well commanded army, our God would bless and bless and help in the time of Gordon's senseless exposure and barbarous martyrdom.

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Once, military people, in time of need, put their utmost confidence in a man because he graduated from the national military school. They trusted him with large commands, and he still believes in the regular army. The leaders to be a sufficient guarantee for any emergency that may arise. But the truth is that the army of our country is not a sufficient guarantee for any emergency that may arise. But the truth is that the army of our country is not a sufficient guarantee for any emergency that may arise.

When local military companies are formed as is often the case, in a country district or village, it is a great desideratum to get an ex-regular soldier to teach and drill. He is always treated with great attention and respect. But if a young man chances to enlist for honorable employment in the regular army, the dwellers in his district or village pity his family, make him a social outcast by

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CHAPTER III. OFF FOR PINE RIDGE.

The strange redskin did not slacken his pace until, with a cat-like bound, he sprang upon the porch, where he stood motionless a moment, cautiously scrutinizing the little soldier who reported and punished, extending his ill-repute, the civilian escapes notice, injuring only himself and his poor family.

The present authorized strength of the army is 5,352 officers and men.

General officers, 9 officers. Adjutant general's department, 17 officers. Inspector general's department, 7 officers. Judge advocate general's department, 8 officers.

Quartermaster's department, 61 officers and 81 non-commissioned sergeants. Substern department, 59 officers and 130 commissary sergeants.

Medical department, 135 officers and 770 non-commissioned hospital corps.

Pay department, 40 officers. Corps of engineers, 113 officers and 500 enlisted men.

Ordnance department, 58 officers and 540 enlisted men.

Signal corps (to be organized), 15 officers and 100 non-commissioned sergeants.

Post chaplains and regimental chaplains of colored regiments, 24.

This completes the general officers and staff of the army. Of the major generals (three in number) one commands the army and the others each a division, embracing one or more brigades. The six brigadier generals usually command departments. The divisions and departments are geographical sub-divisions embracing several states, and are composed of the troops stationed within the limits of this command.

The duties of the staff are indicated by their names. One officer of each of the first six departments is designated as chief of staff and department headquarters, to do the detailed work of his department in command.

Besides the medical commissary and medical departments each conducts a system of purchasing and supply depots directly under the secretary of war and free from military control.

Each also furnishes the medical officers for duty at the military post. The corps of engineers, ordnance department and signal corps are organized as follows:

The line of the army consists of INFANTRY.

Twenty-five regiments of infantry of ten companies each, of which eight are with the colors and two unorganized; each company contains 100 men.

1 Captain, 2 Musicians, 1 First Lieutenant, 2 Artificers, 1 Second Lieutenant, 1 Wagoner, 1 Sergeant, 1 Corporal, 1 Private, 1 Non-commissioned staff.

Aggregate, 520 men.

CAVALRY.

Ten regiments of cavalry of twelve troops each, of which ten are with the colors and two unorganized, each troop containing 100 men.

1 Captain, 2 Musicians, 1 First Lieutenant, 2 Artificers, 1 Second Lieutenant, 1 Wagoner, 1 Sergeant, 1 Corporal, 1 Private, 1 Non-commissioned staff.

Aggregate, 520 men.

ARTILLERY.

Five regiments of artillery of twelve batteries each, of which ten are heavy and two light. Each battery is commanded as follows:

1 Captain, 2 First Lieutenants, 1 Second Lieutenant, 1 Sergeant, 1 Corporal, 1 Private, 1 Non-commissioned staff.

Aggregate, 643 men.

RECAPITULATION OF ENLISTED MEN. Officers.

Infantry, 25 regiments of 10 companies each, 12,125 officers.

Cavalry, 10 regiments of 12 troops each, 6,050 officers.

Artillery, 5 regiments of 12 batteries each, 3,675 officers.

Total, 21,850 officers.

The lawful size of the army is 25,000 enlisted men, besides those allowed for hospital and signal corps. Of this number 3,500 are required for engineer and ordnance departments, West Point detachment, prison guard at Fort Leavenworth, non-commissioned staff of officers, recruits, soldiers at recruiting depots and Indian scouts. Recruits have to be sought after vacancies occur. Therefore, the regular army of the United States is at all probability, supply not more than 20,000 combatants in the ranks.

It is but a nucleus, but with its staff major, quartermaster, division quartermaster, commissary, permanent works and numerous depots for the required supplies, it can readily be expanded as heretofore, fairly to meet the needs of a sufficient force to reach Khartoum, beat back the Mahdi, and rescue the noble Gordon with his helpless dependents, have not, however, prevented the plate of civilization at least a quarter of a century. O, for the proper preparation! The need now plain. A well appointed and well commanded army, our God would bless and bless and help in the time of Gordon's senseless exposure and barbarous martyrdom.

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